assistance to States for the infrastructure development. Under the Growth Centre Scheme aimed at promoting industrialisation of backward areas in the country, four Growth Centres have been sanctioned to the State of Madhya Pradesh and central assistance to the tune of Rs. 35.50 crore has been released for these centres.

Trade promotion organisation complex at Madurai and Coimbatore

1947 SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up of Trade Promotion Organisation Complex at Madurai and Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No proposal for setting up of a Trade Promotion Organisation Complex at Madurai and Coimbatore has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu

Karnataka light soil tobacco crop

1948. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Light Soil tobacco crop for the coming season is likely to be lower than last year due to failure of backing rains during the month of July, 2004,

(b) whether the KLS tobacco growers in Mysore region had anticipated a bumper KLS crop this year based on the normal rainfall, have since scaled down the yield expectations; and

(c) whether considering the huge export earning potential of KLS tobacco, Government would provide special incentives for KLS tobacco growers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the average yield per hectare of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop in 2004-05 season is projected to be higher than that in 2003-04 season

(c) The Tobacco Board is providing incentives to FCV tobacco growers in the Karnataka light soil regions through supply of briquettes, barn insulation as an energy conservation measure and other extension programmes

Export of Software Services

1949. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take for inclusion of software services under the guidelines issued for assistance for development of exports infrastructure and other allied activities scheme by which funds would be allocated on the basis of export performance excluding the export of software services, which is fetching more foreign exchange reserves, inspite of having a very poor infrastructure which is a major deterrent for its development; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The guidelines of the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme provide for allocation of funds to States/Union Territories on the basis of their export performance based on State-wise data of exports of goods compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). Export of services, including software services, is not taken into account for allocation of funds because such data on services is not available State-wise.

India's stand on WTO talks

1950. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: